

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
MARCH 19, 2003
ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER
BOARDROOM
1919 ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER WAY
MADISON, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Daniel Meyer; John Reindl; Tracy Toltzman.

Council Members Absent: Jacqueline Moore Bowles; William Casey; Carol Kubly; Catherine Onsager.

Also attending: Martens, David, Commerce; Marlin Nissen, DNR

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Meyer at 9:00 AM.

Introduction and Announcements: Meyer noted the absence of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2003: John Reindl said that on page 2, line 8, and replace the sentence with "Bangert said some businesses may not want the added liability". On page 3, 5) 'Promulgate rules to set standards', line 2, it should read " certified by the International Association of Electronics Recyclers." 'Recyclers' was left off.

Election of Officers: Postponed due to lack of quorum. Members volunteered to attend the first meeting of the new Council and answer questions about ongoing or previous Council activities. Meyer said that Carol Kubly and Catherine Onsager were not going to ask to be reappointed. Meyer and Tracy Toltzman also said they were not asking to be reappointed. Meyer said he did not know what Jacqueline Moore Bowles or Bill Casey had decided to do.

Reports

Chair: Meyer said that Sen. Harsdorf and Rep. Plouff had issued a press release on the legislation they intend to introduce regarding used oil filters. Meyer said that he had sent a letter to Rep. Ott asking him to co-sponsor legislation on used oil filters. Rep. Ott said he was interested and that all the time and effort that people had put into that report shouldn't go to waste. Meyer said that he had also been in contact with Chris Snyder and that Snyder was working on private sector support.

Meyer said that the Council has sent a letter to the Governor, selected legislators and the secretaries of DNR and Commerce on electronics recycling. That is an area that will need a lot of follow up.

Meyer said the current Council members are willing to brief the new members. Meyer said that used oil filter recycling and electronics recycling were two areas that he would like to address with the new members.

Meyer circulated articles on dry wall recycling and green building. Toltzman suggested that the new Council travel to Sturgeon Bay to see the dry wall plant that is located there.

New Frontiers: Toltzman said that she was willing to meet with the new committee and explain how the committee ranked materials. She said there was a smoke detector report by SHWEC that the Council was promised but had not received.

Computer Task Force: Fields said that the Task Force had finished its work. He said he would send a note to the Task Force telling them that the Task Force had accomplished its mission. The Task Force developed recommendations, the Council revised those recommendations and sent them on to the governor, selected legislators and the secretaries of DNR and Commerce. The next most logical step would be to lobby for the recommendations to become law. Fields said that, as a state employee, he cannot be involved in any lobbying activities. Fields said that any member can use the yahooogroups list to communicate with the rest of the members.

Fields said that the DNR is going to continue to work in this area. He has set up a meeting with Recycling Team Leader Cynthia Moore, Division Administrator Jay Hochmuth and others to discuss how much time and effort the department can put into this area. Meyer said that a lot of time and effort has gone into this project. He feels that the agency should follow up with this activity. Private industry would not allow this much effort to go into a project without buy-in at the top. Toltzman said that this much effort was needed to show that there was a problem. Reindl asked why the Waste program didn't take this up the chain some time ago to make sure this was a priority before all this work was put forth. Fields said that the DNR did not request this activity. It was the Councils' decision and the DNR was happy that the work was done. Toltzman asked if there had been any comment on the report. Fields said he had not heard any comments on the report. Dave Martens suggested that members of the Task Force contact their legislators and the DNR and say that the recommendations should be acted upon. Meyer said he and other Council members were willing to follow up in any way.

Reindl said that the new Council should go to the legislature and major players, such as WMC and the Paper Council and find out what their priorities are to help determine a direction for the new Council.

Public Comment: None.

Updates

Recycling Market Development Board: Dave Martens said that the Board still exists but that the legislature has pulled almost all of the funding (\$3.8 million) from the program. The only money left is from loan repayments and that is not a significant amount of money since the funds come back over a number of years. Reindl asked how many loans the Board still had open. Martens said about 30 in various stages of repayment, including some in default. Reindl asked what would happen to BMEX and WasteCap if the Board were eliminated. Martens was not sure of the legal ramifications.

DNR: Fields said the budget had not affected the recycling program but there have been funds moved to other programs. Reindl agreed, saying that the recycling program has already seen a number of raids on the fund and there are many more proposals for tapping the fund.

Marlin Nissen, DNR, said he just started and he was an LTE doing market trends analysis. He is looking at the price data for materials that are recycled in Wisconsin and comparing it to economic conditions. He is looking for a correlation between prices and the other factors. He is hoping to find correlation's to help people plan for the future.

Nissen said he is also working on the Rechargeable Battery Recycling program for the DNR. He is trying to put a program together to use the DNR offices as a pilot. There are a number of roadblocks to doing this type of program in a public space. He will then put together a manual to show how to set up a program that meets all the requirements.

Nissen said he was also working on C&D recycling in general and drywall recycling in particular. Reindl said that the EPA is working to have a web page set up on drywall. He said that EPA receives a lot of complaints about drywall in landfills, so they are really pushing gypsum (drywall) recycling. He said that the Royster Clark Company is setting up a program to test the use of it as a soil amendment. One of the anticipated problems is the dust from crushing drywall. That could have a major environmental impact. WasteCap is also working on this issue.

Reindl said that C&D used to be 40-45% by weight in the landfill. The work practices are much better and people are more aware of options. Nissen said he was also going to work on the recycling of material from the Badger Ammunition plant.

Other Business:

The next regular Council meeting is Wednesday, May 21, 2003.

Potential agenda items: mercury products.

Adjournment: Reindl moved, Toltzman seconded. The Council adjourned at 10:15 AM. Upon adjournment the Council members toured the Restore, 208 Cottage Grove Road, Madison. Respectfully submitted by Daniel B. Fields, Department of Natural Resources.